Philad.a 8mo. 13th 1864

William Lloyd Garrison

133 Esteemed Friend.

I have just read Benj. Emerson's letter requesting a discontinuance of the Liberator and thy Editorial on "Our Position".

Regarding the spirit of independence and liberty as essential to the age, I am surprised that any one, especially a reader of the Liberator for thirty years, should say one word, or do one act, to curb either; and I shall take pleasure in sending two new subscribers, for every one who orders a discontinuance of thy paper under such circumstances.

Enclosed find Six dollars and the address of the two now obtained.

Kind & generous criticism is desirable, but not unjust and denunciatory condemnation.

Charity still demands her place and appreciative commendation never ceases to encourage.

Who shall forget thy labors of a score & a half of years? and who shall fling thy paper back in thy face, because thou hast dared to be as independent as thou art free, and would have all others?

It is the manner, rather than the act, of discontinuance that is unkind & reprehensible.

As one who cannot vote for any one as President,

severe as the sacrifice is, for by so doing I should vote for some one to be Commander in chief of an army & a navy, and hence incompatible with a testimony against all military organizations. I would not restrain anyone from freely expressing his opinions as to who can best serve his country.

I honor all loyal advocates, even if differing in the means to attain devout ends. Wendell Phillips is a necessity of the age, and there is no danger of his becoming a man worshipped, as there is none of his becoming a vilifier of the race. The spirit of love in condemnation for the wrong and commendation for the right is truly sublime.

It is not by President Lincoln in a desire for retraction rather than protraction, when in error, and the fact that he invites criticism and heeds reason should insure him friends, & make him as one well calculated to be the Executive of the nation.

There is a tendency to expect the legislative, judicial & executive powers all vested in the President. We forget it is his duty to feel the pulse of the people & honestly execute their wishes.

Let us then work to elevate the tone of the people. It will not be done by scoffing at the efforts of tried friends of the Anti-Slavery Cause; by aiding in stopping abolition presses and chilling abolition heats.

Surely they have enough to contend with from the pro-Slavery & disloyal enemies. Rather join hands for the right, and while we give a sincere & genial encouragement

yield to everyone the right of expressing his
views as to the best means of insuring
the success of the best cause.

Yr faithful Fellow Laborer
& Friend
Alfred H Love